



Words of Peace

Peace Presbyterian Church - Elkhorn, Nebraska

June 2020



From Pastor's Pen...

Returning to a New Normal- with thanksgiving, perseverance, and trusting faith.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." -Isaiah 43:19

How has your outlook and experience of life changed in the last couple or three months as we have been sheltering-in-place and living in this new kind of wilderness?

I had a pastor friend ask me this week if I thought people wanted to go back to the way things were — back to normal in their church life? I think, whether we want it or not, we have been changed, every one of us, our daily lives, our church life, our world has changed, life is still changing amid the Corona pandemic of 2020. I believe it will do so in many small personal ways as well as some large, far-reaching and impactful ways as we continue to be God's people in the world, today and beyond.

I read this in a recent blog that said: "A British survey of 4,343 people that was commissioned by the Royal Society of Arts, and the Food Foundation, The study found these interesting state of minds: only 9% of Britons reported that they wanted life to return to "normal" once the pandemic lockdown is over. That means over 90% are experiencing significant goodness and beauty; wanting to [live life in a new transformed way].

For many people the pandemic has been a wake-up call to things that really matter: over half of the respondents (54%) reported that they hope to make changes in their lives, and that they hope the entire country will learn positive things from the hard times. Others said that they were experiencing more gratitude — 42% of participants said they value food and other essentials more since the pandemic. More people are cooking (38%), spending less money (61%), and enjoying the experience of cleaner air (51%). About 40% of people reported a greater sense of community with family and friends. Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the RSA, said that while it was right that the immediate emergency was the priority, 'we must use this time to imagine a better future.'

Our life in Christ, with the coming of his Spirit to us and in us, means we are a changed and changing people. That is a gift of grace from the Lord to you. What has changed in your life? What do you give thanks for? What has been revealed to you as things that really matter? What can you celebrate and lift up, by God's grace, out of the horror and loss from this terrible pandemic? What is (do you hope for) the new normal for your life?

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Lean on the promise, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8). Live bravely into the fresh new wind of change that sweeps through our life by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

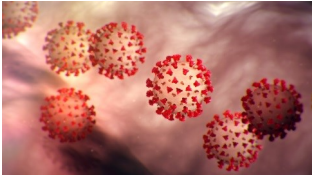
Peace be with you. See you soon my dear friends,

Pastor Bonnie



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OFFER MASKS FOR ALL

The Presbyterian Women are offering to sew and deliver cloth adult or child face masks to **anyone** in need. A free will donation is appreciated with checks made out to Peace Presbyterian Women and mailed to Peace Church at 333 S. 204th St., Elkhorn NE 68022. These masks will come 2 in a pack and be delivered to your door. You can order as many as you want by contacting Liz Baker via her email, coronado52@cox.net.



UPDATE of our COVID-19 Response at Peace

The Session decision regarding our response to Covid-19 to **keep the church building closed until the end of June still stands.**

We applied for and have received a Payroll Protection Plan loan. This will be used to fund salaries, utilities, and mortgage interest for the next few weeks. We expect the loan to be forgiven under the government guidelines.

The church staff continues to work from home and outside the church walls while the building is closed. Pastor Bonnie has created several options for on-line worship and fellowship. Many folks are taking advantage of these to stay connected. Work projects are being completed including property up-keep, building sanitation, church program planning and office maintenance. Mail is processed daily and finances are being managed by our Treasurer and Finance Committee. Staff can be reached by email or phone (peacepresby@msn.com; 402-289-1104; phone calls are answered remotely). Pastor Bonnie can be reached at anytime by her email or on her cell phone (peacepcpastor@gmail.com; 870-415-2082). Treasurer Mary McArdle can be reached via email (peacetreasurer89@gmail.com).

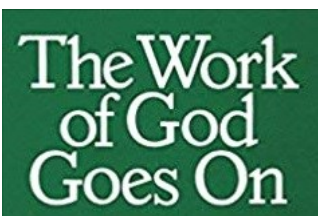
Session, Committees, Confirmation, Youth and other meetings are being held via Zoom or phone call. Please call the office if you schedule a meeting so the church calendar can be kept current.

If you have any need please feel free to contact Pastor Bonnie, an Elder, or a Deacon. To place a request on the prayer chain, contact Terrie Dunavant (nanna507@cox.net, 402-290-7070).

Remember to pray for your church leaders, staff and church family. Pray for direction, wisdom, safety and health.



A **Reopening Task Team** has been established to begin planning the reopening of the church. Their first meeting was held on Wednesday, May 27. The team will review suggestions from various groups and guidelines from government agencies and will work toward establishing A plan to safely reopen the church for worship, fellowship and mission work. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Bonnie.



So much has changed, or stopped, or cancelled...**but the work of God goes on!** Prayer has is not silenced. Worship has not stopped. Service to others keeps going. Pastoral care continues. Confirmation Class preparation has not been cancelled. Music has not stopped, Building and grounds up-keep go on. Session and Deacon leadership continues. PW mission work keeps going. Giving and tithing continue. Youth Group stays connected. Community outreach goes on. **The Love of God....the Call of God....the Mission of God....go on and on and on.**

IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT May 31st - Pentecost Sunday - 10:15am



Peace Church used an FM transmitter to allow attendees to listen to the service from their cars. Pastor Bonnie and several musicians led us in worship.

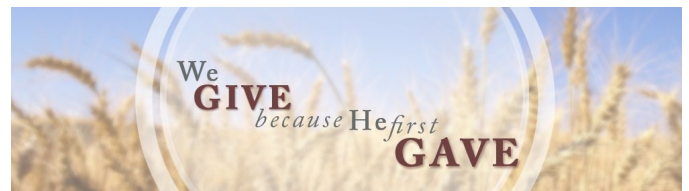
This was another way for us to connect with each other as we take the first step toward reopening. This opportunity has been made possible through the generous donation of the equipment to Peace Church. We are grateful to Scot Thompson, Pete & Susan Hall, Katie King, Dave Fulton, Michael Young and Bernie Baker for their help with the service!

Thanks be to God we had the opportunity to be together to worship the Lord and be filled by the Holy Spirit - by the very breath of God - on Pentecost!



FROM OUR CHURCH TREASURER

"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." - 2 Corinthians 8



Thank you again for your continued financial support during these uncertain times. Shown below is our stewardship income through May compared to the total year budget. The unpledged income of \$13,970 is tracking about \$8,000 below budget through May, which will be difficult to make up in the balance of the year. We won't know for another month or so whether our PPP loan will be forgiven. We are closely monitoring our expenses to identify opportunities to offset this potential income shortfall, as well as a possible unbudgeted expense to replace the air conditioner for the church office.

May YTD Actual		Full Year Budget	% of Total
Pledged	\$101,781	\$224,300	45.4%
Unpledged	\$ 13,970	\$ 53,832	26.0%
Debt	\$ 6,499	\$ 17,160	37.9%
Total	\$122,250	\$295,292	41.4%

Mary McArdle, Church Treasurer



with Peace Church
Join us on Thursday nights anytime between
7-8 pm
by ZOOM
Come and share some happiness!
Check-in, say hello and chat awhile.
Stay as long as you like.
*You can also call to join the gathering
by phone.*
Call 1-301-715-8592
You will then then enter the meeting ID:
81228019121#
when prompted
Zoom meeting ID: 82118019121

Join Pastor Bonnie and other church
members every Thursday morning
11am - Noon
Virtual Coffee and Conversation Time
**Say hello and talk about what's on your
mind and heart with one another.**
Everyone is welcome!
Join by video or you can call to join the
gathering by phone.
Call: 1-301-715-8592
You will then then enter the meeting ID
when prompted: 897 5245 9181#

BEST WISHES ON YOUR SPECIAL JUNE DAY!

BIRTHDAYS: 1 Zachary Bowcott; 2 Kirk Sake; 3 Harper Bohaboj. Amanda Wamsat; 4 Justin King
5 Nancy Patton; 7 James Patton; 8 Shaelee Connolly, Kelly Whisinnand; 12 Olivia Tartaglia, Gloria Wollery
17 Carol Huffman; 18 Brett Vance; 20 Bell Badalucco, Jerry Shepherd; 22 Kellen Koel;
25 John Sander, Tom Sladek; 27 Masyn Bunnell; 28 Izzy Abrahams; 30 Catricia Sake

ANNIVERSARIES: 1 Dean & LaRue Marshall; 10 Jim & Cheri Koel; 12 Jamie & Elisa Bowcott,
12 Ken & Kim Bunnell; 16 Rick & Teresa King; 22 Andrew & Nicole Abrahams; 25 Bill & Donna Dermyer;
25 Rob & Jane King; 26 Scot & Leann Thompson; 28 Jim & Marilyn Schreiner



Keep saving those treasures - the 2020 Garage Sale is still in the works!
A new date will be announced as soon as the current Covid-19 situation
settles down. Contact Steve Brosz with questions or suggestions at
stevebrosz@gmail.com.



Peace Mission Statement

We seek to deepen our commitment to God through Jesus Christ with meaningful worship
experiences, education, mission, and to welcome all who want to know and learn about
God and the Church.

Website: www.peacepresbyterian.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/peacepresbyterianelkhorn
Podcast: "A Soulful Word" @ <http://buzzsprout.com/253873>
FlockNote: To receive church text and email communications text: peacepc to 84576
Address: 333 S. 204th St., Elkhorn, NE. 68022
Phone: 402-289-1104

